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REPORT
OF
ALBERT PELLEW SALTER, ESQUIRE,
PROVINCIAL LAND SURVEYOR,
UPON THE COUNTRY BORDERING UPON THE
NORTH SHORE OF LAKE HURON.

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MAPS

to

ALBERT WILLIAM SAYER Esq.

PROVINCIAL LAND SURVEYOR

ON THE GOVERNMENT LAND SURVEY OF THE

SOUTHERN SHORE OF LAKE HURON

REPORT

Made to the Crown Lands Department by Albert Pellew Salter,
Esquire, P. L. S., upon the Country bordering upon the North
Shore of Lake Huron, recently explored by that Gentleman.—
Furnished in compliance with the letter of the Hon. Provin-
cial Secretary, dated 31st March, 1856.

JOS CAUCHON,
Commissioner Crown Lands.

Crown Lands Department,
Toronto, 3rd April, 1856.

To the Honorable Joseph Cauchon, Commissioner of Crown Lands :

SIR,—I have the honor to lay before you the following Report upon my exploration of the country bordering on the north shore of Lake Huron, under your instructions of the 1st June last; and to transmit, herewith, for your information, a Map, drawn on the scale of one mile to an inch, shewing the several lines traversed in the course of my researches.

After receiving your instructions, I used the utmost despatch in procuring my necessary instruments and supplies; and, on the 2nd July, left home for Detroit: on the following morning, accompanied by Mr. De Rottermund, I left for the Sault Ste. Marie, the point from which I had determined to commence my examination; having previously despatched an assistant to Penetanguishine, for the purpose of engaging men and canoes, with orders to push to the Sault as fast as possible.

On my arrival at the Sault on Thursday, the 5th July, as my party had not arrived, I engaged a party for Mr. De Rottermund, and, on the following Monday, proceeded, with that gentleman, to examine the country immediately in rear of the village. On the following Thursday, my party having arrived, at the request of Mr. De Rottermund, I accompanied him to the Bruce Mines, and leaving him there, returned to Garden River, and again pushed into the interior.

On my return to the Bruce Mines, on Friday, July 20th, I found awaiting me your instructions of the 4th of that month; and having communicated with Mr. De Rottermund, as directed, we separated, I having, at his request, paid and provisioned his party, as well as my own, to that time.

I subsequently ascended the Thessalon, Mississâga, Blind, Serpent, Spanish and French Rivers, making a careful examination of each, as also of the coast of the Lake. On my descent from Lake Nipissing, the weather, which, throughout the season, had been unusually wet and boisterous, was such as to render remaining longer on the Lake, dangerous, and I therefore determined to close my work for the season; and reaching Penetanguishine on Saturday, the 3rd of November, paid and discharged my party on Monday, 5th.

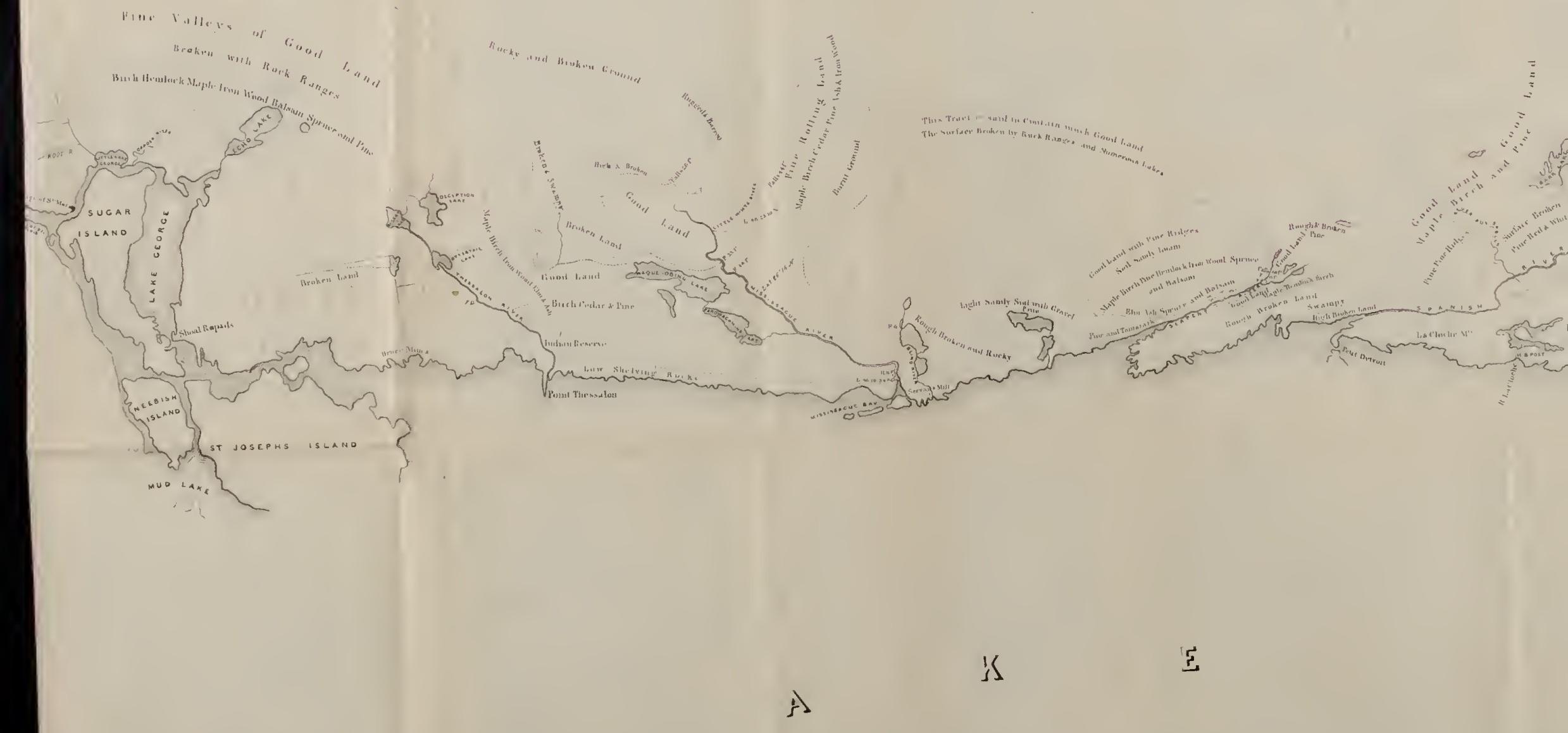
Having thus given you a condensed account of my proceedings for the season, I beg to refer you to my diary, forwarded herewith, for a detailed account of my daily work.

REDUCTION OF PLAN OF EXPLORATION OF THE

ALBERT PELLEW SAL

Scale 6 Miles to an Inch

The Divine S&D

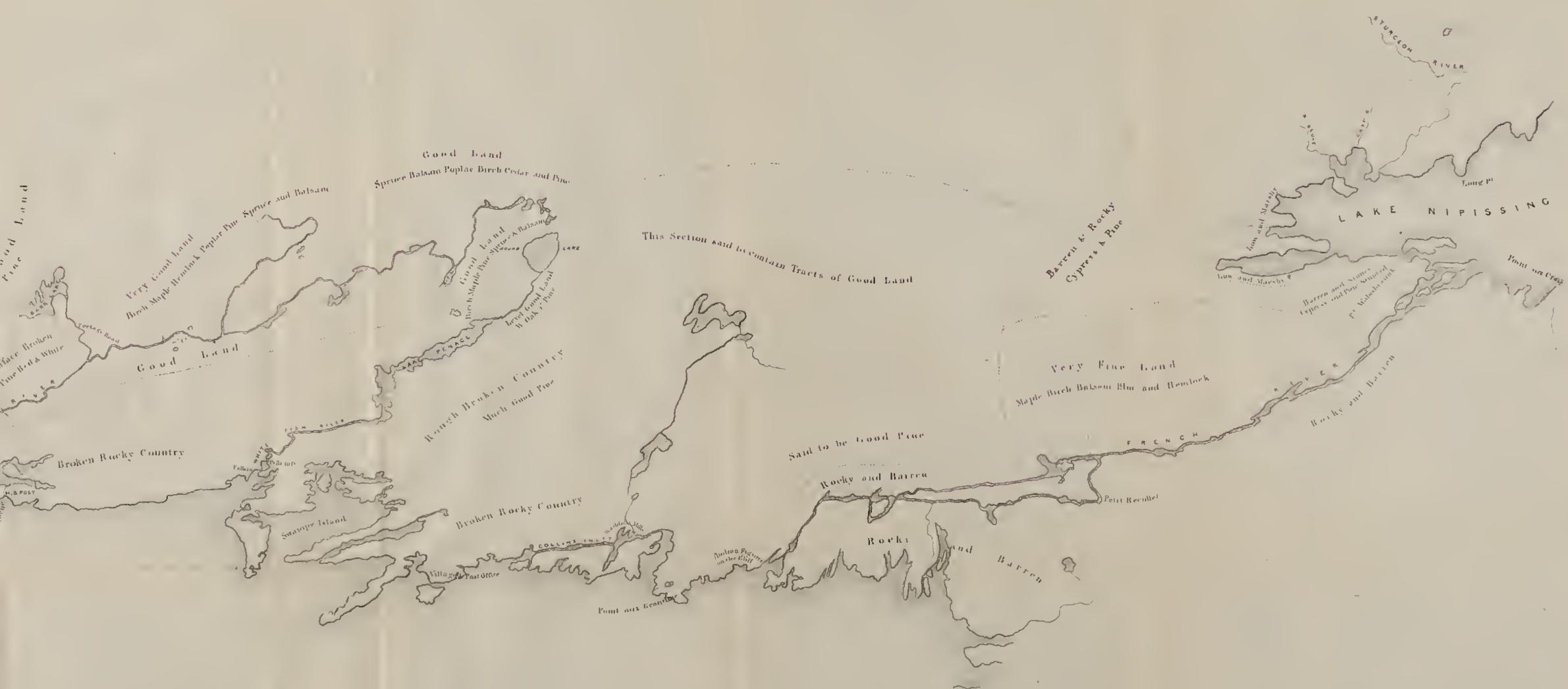


THE NORTH SHORE OF LAKE HURON BY

SALTER P.L.S.

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Crown Land Department

TORONTO 15th APRIL 1856

2½ d. C. L.

Commissioner of Crown Lands

The general features of the country bordering on the River Ste. Marie, and upon Lake Huron, are very similar ; at times, bold, rugged, and declivitous, and scantily clothed with stunted spruce, balsam, pine, and birch, the coast affords but slender hopes of finding much land fit for agricultural purposes ; at others, rising gently from the margin of the water, and covered with a fair growth of hard wood timber, birch, maple, and iron-wood, it holds out inducements to an explorer to penetrate before condemning ; whilst here and there, extensive tracts of level land are seen, in some places low and swampy, presenting an almost impenetrable thicket of black alder and sallow ; in others, open prairie, covered with a luxuriant growth of wild grass.

Leaving the shores of the river or lake, at distances varying from two to five miles, the scene changes ; and the topographical features of the country may be described as consisting of rich alluvial valley, varying in width from a quarter to seven miles, heavily timbered with mixed timber ; crossed at intervals by rock ridges, and traversed by small rivulets of excellent water. These ridges, with the exception of the Gros Cap and Lacleche, form no regular mountain range ; but are short escarpments of rock, seldom more than three-fourths of a mile in length, and varying in height from 30 to 250 feet, rounded on the flanks ; and although bold and declivitous on the southerly sides, are, on the north, easy of approach, as the descent from the summit is regular, and the side generally well timbered with hardwood. On the summits, they are, for the most part, destitute of vegetation for a distance of from two to eight chains.

In the valleys, the soil is, generally, decayed vegetable matter, or a rich sandy loam, with a subsoil of reddish blue or white clay ; in many instances resembling lime-stone in a state of decomposition ; the timber mixed, and consisting of birch, maple, ironwood, cedar, elm, ash, pine, spruce, balsam, hemlock and poplar, according to the locality.

The surface rises gradually from the water's edge for the distance of half a mile, in rear of the present village plot of Ste. Marie ; and although partly covered with boulders, produces a fine growth of grass and clover.

From this point to Root River, the surface is generally level, with a slight inclination to the eastward, or towards Garden River ; the soil is here a fine sandy loam, and the sub-soil a reddish blue clay.

The timber has for the most part been destroyed by fire ; where still standing, it consisted of maple, birch, ironwood, spruce, balsam, cedar, elm, and ash.

Root River, flowing south-easterly, is a small stream, and empties into the Ste. Marie on the westerly side of Little Lake George ; it is shallow, with clear water, rapid current, and gravel bottom ; the banks are about five feet high, and its general breadth one chain.

The soil on both sides of the river is good ; but near its confluence with the Ste. Marie, it is low and swampy. Northward of the river, for six miles, the surface is gently undulating, broken here and there by the rock ridges above described ; the soil and timber being much the same as on the south side.

In rear of the last range ascended, a valley of seven or eight miles in width extends eastward to the high land surrounding Echo Lake, and westward to the Gros Cap range at the foot of Lake Superior ; its regularity broken here and there by ranges of rock, the soil and timber being much the same as before described.

Garden River, flowing southerly and south westerly, empties into the Ste. Marie a short distance eastward of Little Lake George. It is a fine stream ; its general width about three chains.

Immediately at the mouth, there is an Indian settlement of considerable extent, and the inhabitants, unlike this people generally, have turned their attention to agricultural pursuits, there being some fine plantations adjoining the village, on which were growing luxuriantly, oats, maize, potatoes and grass.

The soil on the banks of this river and for a considerable distance inland, on either side is of the best quality, being a fine rich sandy loam, the timber large and thrifty, and much the same in character as that on Root River.

In rear of the Indian reserve, the valley, entered northward from Root River, was again seen presenting the same appearance, and stretching eastward to the high land surrounding Echo Lake, as described above. This valley is crossed by Garden River, and is also watered by several small tributaries of excellent water. I intended to have proceeded a considerable distance into the interior by this river, but was prevented by the swollen state of the stream, caused by the immense quantity of rain which had fallen the few days previously.

The Thessalon, with its chain of Lakes, flowing from the north west, empties into Lake Huron about 12 miles eastward of the Bruce mines, and immediately eastward of the point of the same name, which projects into the Lake for a considerable distance. At the mouth of the river the water is shallow, and the approach consequently difficult in boisterous weather. On the westerly side of the mouth, there is a fine sandy beach, and its easterly limit is composed of rock rising gradually from the water to the height of about thirty feet. Nine miles from its entrance into Lake Huron, the navigation is impeded by rapids, and between it and Ottertail Lake, the first of the chain, there are four rapids and falls, round three of which it is necessary to portage canoes.

From the third Lake the river still keeps a north westerly direction as far as explored.

The land on the margin of the river is of good quality and heavily timbered. The surface rises gently from the waters' edge, and at the top of the bank the rock is near the surface; this continues, however, but a short distance, when it descends gradually, and for several miles to the eastward, the soil is of good quality and deep; the surface rolling, and the timber fine and thrifty, maple, birch, cedar, elm and ash prevailing. Much good pine is also scattered through this section.

Westward of the river, or in rear of the Bruce mines, the country is more broken and rugged. North and west from Desert Lake the second of the chain, the coast is low and swampy, for the distance of three quarters of a mile, but in rear the surface rises gradually, and, though broken here and there by the rock ranges, which form a marked feature in the topography of this country, affords a considerable extent of land fit for settlement, the soil being deep and rich, and the timber principally hard wood, fine and thrifty.

North and East from Lake Deception, the third of the series, there are extensive tracts of excellent land, timbered chiefly with hard wood; these tracts extend eastward to the Mississâga, and southward to within two miles of the coast of Lake Huron, which here is generally composed of flat shelving rocks. Numerous small islands and sunken rocks, lie along this portion of the coast, rendering approach to the shore dangerous in stormy weather.

The Mississâga, entering Lake Huron about thirty miles eastward of "Point Thessalon" is, at its entrance into the Lake, a fine broad stream, with a considerable depth of water; and its mouth being protected, eastward, by several islands, affords a safe and commodious harbour. The navigation is, however, totally impeded four miles from its mouth, where a rock range crossing the river, forms a fall of five feet. Further up, also, in addition to the falls, of which there are three to the point called the "Grand Portage," shoals or spits of sand and gravel, are constantly met, which render access to the interior by this river, impracticable save in canoes, or boats of a very light draft of water.

At the mouth of the river, the land is low and swampy, but the surface rises gradually, and at the distance of one and a half miles from the Lake, the banks on both sides are high and the soil and timber of good quality, the former being a rich red sand, with a sub-soil of blue clay, and the latter consisting of birch, hard and soft maple, cedar, poplar, spruce, balsam, black and white ash, and elm.

The banks of the river are in some places, forty and fifty feet high of sand.

Between the northerly limit of the Indian Reserve, and "Little White River," a south west flowing tributary of the Mississâga, there is a tract of country of considerable extent, fit for settlement.

Northward of "Little White River," there is a fine block of land, extending nearly to the "Grand Portage," and stretching to the eastward for a considerable distance.

North of the "Grand Portage," the country presents a very rugged and barren appearance.

Westward from this point or towards the Thessalon River, for five miles the land, though light, is of good quality, and the timber fine and thrifty, but beyond this the surface is either rough and broken or low and swampy.

A river was met about nine and a half miles westward of the "Grand Portage," flowing through an extensive marsh, which from the direction it took I supposed to be a branch of the Thessalon. Being unable to cross it, there being no timber in the vicinity, I passed it to the south.

The tract of country north of Lake Waquekobing, is considerably broken, and although many valleys of good hard wood land were crossed, they were narrower and less frequent than south of the Lake.

Much good pine was met on both sides of the Mississâga; and large tracts of this valuable timber, have, I regret to say, been destroyed by fire.

The Blind River, forming the easterly limit of the Indian Reserve, enters Lake Huron, about four miles east of the Mississâga. At the mouth a person named Servail has a saw mill, driven by water. This river, flowing generally south easterly, takes its rise in lakes several miles in the interior.

The land on the easterly side, except a very narrow strip, immediately bordering on the river is rough, broken, and barren, for some distance to the east.

Narrow valleys of hard wood land were found here and there, but no extensive tracts fit for settlement.

The pine on the Indian Reserve is of good quality, but that obtained by Servail, eastward of the river, smaller and not so good. The mill is capable of cutting only 5,000 feet of lumber per day, for which the proprietor finds ready sale at the Bruce Mines, and Sault Ste. Marie.

The coast of the Lake between the Mississâga and Serpent River, differs from that westward, inasmuch as spots of sand or gravel beach are more frequently met with, which, rising gradually from the margin, extend inland a considerable distance. The soil, however, is a very light sand and stony, and although some fine pine were seen, red and white, the timber is generally of little value, but in the interior tracts of hard wood land of some extent were met.

Serpent River empties into a deep bay or inlet of Lake Huron, about twenty-five miles east of the Mississâga. The Bay into which it empties is unsurpassed as a harbour, by any I have seen upon either Lake Huron or Superior.

At the mouth of the river, on the westerly side, the land is of good quality but low and level. Ascending the river the scene is rugged and rough, the rock ranges running close to the margin of the river, and parallel to it. In rear however, on both sides, some valleys of good hard wood land were met, but more particularly on the west, the same being a continuation of the valleys seen from the east bank of the Mississâga.

The coast of the Lake between the Serpent and Spanish Rivers is rocky and barren, and affords but little hope of finding land fit for agricultural purposes within any reasonable distance of the shore. This is to be accounted for from the fact that this portion of the coast is a narrow peninsula, both rivers entering Lake Huron about the same latitude.

Spanish River empties into a large and beautiful bay of Lake Huron, which being completely land-locked by islands, affords a safe and commodious harbour.

It has two entrances, the main one being from the westward, through a narrow but deep channel called the "Petit Detour;" it can also be entered on the easterly side.

For two or three miles from the mouth the width of the river is nearly half a mile; this width, however, is lessened by marshes, formed from the deposit of the river, through which run several channels of deep water. Shortly above this the breadth diminishes to about six or eight chains, but again spreading, the river for several miles is about twenty-five chains in breadth; and at the first water fall, thirty miles from its mouth, its breadth is five chains.

At the entrance and for five miles up, the country on either side is rugged and barren, and, with the exception of a few alluvial flats, destitute of both soil and timber, save a stunted growth of spruce, balsam and pine. Further up, or within six miles of the point at which the Aux Sables, the first tributary, enters the river, the land on both sides is good and well timbered, pine very thrifty and fine, prevailing to a great extent.

Entering from this point northward, I crossed the Aux Sables and continued as far as Loon and Bark Lakes, passing through a fine section of country, the surface rolling and the soil and timber of the best quality; a few rock ridges were crossed, but the general character of the country was very fine. Crossing Bark Lake I returned to the main river, striking it near the mouth of the second tributary.

Although the country was more rugged and broken on this line, yet much fine land was seen affording an ample field for a fine settlement. The soil is a fine sandy loam, the subsoil a retentive white clay, and in addition to the several hard wood timbers usually met, large quantities of fine beech were seen. Extensive groves of very fine Pine were also seen through this section.

The River Aux Sables furnishes unlimited water power.

From the mouth of the second tributary to the first fall, the banks are frequently very steep and high, composed of sand resting on the white clay above described.

Above the first, and in the neighborhood of all the falls, the country is more rugged and broken; on the margin of the river it is bold and declivitous, the tops of the hills being mostly destitute of soil and timber.

Entering northward near the second fall, I pushed inland for several miles, passing through a section of country much the same as that met below; presenting the same rolling surface, and the soil and timber being very similar, pine of a very fine character being constantly met, and in large quantities.

Crossing the river below the third fall, I examined the country on the east side to the third tributary, which enters the river immediately below the second fall. On this section much good land was seen near the banks of the main river, but further inland the country was more broken and rugged.

This river, the finest entering Lake Huron, presents advantages not met with on any other part of the country visited. A fine stream navigable for several miles, large tracts of excellent land, extensive forests of valuable pine, cedar and hemlock timber, and water power unlimited, lead one to hope that at no very distant period this section of the country will become one of considerable commercial importance to the Province.

This tributary takes its rise within a very short distance of White Fish Lake, and, although navigable for canoes, the route is tedious from the number and extent of the portages.

The country on both sides is very similar in character to that met on the main branch, at times bold, declivitous and barren, particularly at the points where the navigation is obstructed by the falls, at others flat or rolling and covered with a fine and heavy growth of timber, white oak and elm being very frequently met with.

Inland on either side the same appearance prevails, and although the hard wood timber is smaller and scarcer than on the main river, the soil is of good quality, and throughout the whole section groves of very fine pine were constantly seen.

On both sides of White Fish, Round and Mud Lakes, there are extensive tracts of good land, the soil being much the same as already described, and the timber birch, maple, pine, white and red, hemlock, cedar, spruce, balsam, elm and ash, prevailing in the order mentioned.

In the neighborhood of the last mentioned lake were seen large valleys bearing very fine white oak. The descent to the coast of Lake Huron, by the White Fish River and chain of lakes is difficult and hazardous, there being twelve portages to cross; and the approach to some of the falls, except with experienced canoe men, being dangerous in the extreme.

Leaving Mud Lake, the country on both sides of this route is more rugged and rough, and on a near approach to Lake Huron is essentially so; high ranges of barren rocks, and intervening valleys of alluvial deposit, form the general feature, the former higher than any yet met, the latter narrower and much broken up by lakes, large and small, and low marshy hollows.

Pine, however, prevails to a great extent throughout the whole section, and near the point at which White Fish River enters Lake Huron are seen valleys bearing good hard wood timber.

This River empties into a large bay which, being protected lakeward by numerous islands and projecting headlands, affords a safe harbour, but at a mile from its mouth the navigation is totally impeded by a rock range, which, crossing the river, forms a fall of thirty feet, offering a magnificent water privilege.

The coasts of the Lake, from the mouth of White Fish River to the harbour Shebahonahning, now called Killarney, is grand, bold and precipitous, being a high range of rock hills, a portion of the Lacloche Mountains.

Shebah-onahning, or Killarney, a small trading post or village containing about forty inhabitants, is situated nearly midway between Penetanguishine and the Sault Ste. Marie.

The harbour is a narrow channel or strait, bounded on the north by the main land, on the south by a large island, and is protected to the westward by several smaller islands; which, in all weathers, render it perfectly secure.

Immediately in rear of the post there is an area of about nine square miles of tolerably good land, behind this, however, are seen the mountain ranges and high lands passed in descending the White Fish River. I would respectfully submit that should you decide upon surveying this country, that this point would be a desirable position for a small Town, or Village plot. Between this point and French River, the coast and islands are, for the most part, low rocks, chiefly destitute of vegetation of any kind.

Midway between Shebah-onahning and French River, a small stream called the Mahzenazing empties into "Collins inlet," On this River Messrs. Waddell and Murray have erected a saw mill driven by water power, and working two upright saws, a circular or edger, and a siding machine.

The mill is a fine structure and the machinery of the most approved kind. The Proprietors exported during the season of 1855, one and a half million feet of Pine lumber.

The River flows, generally, southerly, and south-easterly, and rises in lakes some distance inland; not being able to proceed up for drift wood, I obtained from an Indian a sketch of it which I have placed on my plan.

The country on the margin of this river is rocky and broken, and timbered chiefly with small pine, spruce and balsam. Further inland, alluvial flats are met crossed by groves of fine pine timber, but there are no tracts of good arable land of any extent.

This River resembles White Fish River in one respect, in as much as it is a chain of long narrow lakes connected together by straits.

These lakes are studded with islands, some of which are of considerable area. Passing through these, the waters of Lake Nipissing join those of Lake Huron by

four main outlets; and at several points ascending the main channels a number of smaller outlets branch off, which, together, divide the country at the mouth of the River, into numerous small islands, among which the inexperienced voyageur has considerable difficulty in threading his way.

Ascending the north channel the country is, generally, rocky and barren. Immediately on the margin of the River, the banks are abrupt and precipitous, rising in many places to the height of sixty feet; and, clothed with a stunted growth of red and white pine, cypress, birch and poplar, they present a sterile and barren appearance.

A short distance inland on the westerly side of the river from "Owl Point," there is a fine tract of land of considerable extent reaching to the southward, nearly to the Recollet Falls, and to the Northward, nearly to the Chaudière Island, this tract, as I was informed by an Indian chief, extends to within a short distance of the deep bays at the westerly end of Lake Nipissing. The soil is a fine sandy loam, the sub-soil clay, and the timber principally hard wood, remarkably fine and thrifty. Basswood and elm of very large dimensions were also constantly met with on this tract, also groves of very fine pine.

Ascending the River from this point, the land on either side presents the same sterile appearance as below to the entrance of Lake Nipissing.

The Southerly and westerly coasts of Lake Nipissing, are indented by numerous bays and narrow inlets, which, on the margin, are low and swampy, and with the exception of these Prairies in which were frequently seen wild rice beds, the remainder of the coast consists of level plateaux of rock sparsely timbered with cypress, red and white pine, poplar, spruce, balsam and a few birch. Inland the surface is higher but the same appearance prevails both as regards soil and timber.

The northerly coast of this Lake, westward of Sturgeon River, is also low at the margin, and when the waters of the lake are high, is, from its appearance, submerged.

The "River Beuve," or as it is sometimes called "West River," empties into Lake Nipissing, about four miles westward of Sturgeon River.

At the mouth there are prairies of considerable extent, covered with a fine growth of grass. Ascending the river the surface rises slightly, and above the falls is rugged and broken. Surrounding the prairie tracts of white oak, mixed with soft maple were seen. The former timber is, however, of little value, being stunted in growth.

Both sides of this river, about four miles above its entrance into Lake Nipissing, afford a fine growth of Pine, both Red and White, and inland the same timber prevails; but few hard wood flats were met, and, on the whole, this section, save for its Pine forests, is uninteresting.

Sturgeon River, emptying into Lake Nipissing nearly due north from Point Wabishcaunk, the entrance to French River, is a fine deep stream and its average breadth about six chains.

The first fall which impedes the navigation is about six miles from its mouth.

The land at its entrance into Lake Nipissing is low and swampy, consisting on both sides of open prairie; and on the westerly side there is a cranberry marsh of considerable extent, from which are gathered, yearly, a large quantity of this valuable fruit.

One mile from the mouth, on the Westerly side of the river, is a post of the Honorable Hudson's Bay Company, and from this, ascending the river, the surface gradually rises, and with the exception of the points at which the rock ridges cross the river, and from the several falls, the land on both sides is of good quality; the soil a rich sandy loam, the sub-soil a clay, and the timber birch, soft maple, pine, hemlock, cedar, spruce and balsam.

Inland, for several miles, the appearance of both soil and timber is the same, and large extensive tracts of very fine pine timber were met on both sides of the

river above the first fall, and near it some fine white oak were observed. No hard maple was observed on this section.

Lake Nipissing is very shallow and studded with numerus small islands, particularly at the western end, and a very slight breeze renders the navigation impracticable with a loaded canoe.

Its breadth from Point Wabishcaunk to the mouth of Sturgeon River is about six and a half miles.

Point Aux Croix is a high bluff point on the south-east coast of Lake Nipissing.

On examining the country southward of this, I discovered a tract of considerable extent stretching several miles to the south and east, but turning west on the line traversed, where within four miles of French River, the same sterile country is met as on the River; bare ridges of rocks, or sparsely timbered with cypress, spruce, balsam and poplar, crossed by narrow gorges of low land generally bearing tamarac or cedar, are general features.

In rear of Point Aux Croix, in addition to the timbers described as prevailing in those sections of the country where land fit for agricultural purposes was found, a large quantity of fine thrifty birch was met.

Descending to Lake Huron, by a channel further to the eastward than the one ascended, the same appearance prevails as on the north channel, and with the exception of an Island, forming, as I learn, an Indian Reserve, no land fit for settlement was seen.

On my descent to Lake Huron, for the reasons given in the opening part of this report, I closed my work for the season.

In prosecuting my field operations, I found the traces of the several places of Mr. Murray, the Assistant Provincial Geologist, furnished me for my guidance, of very essential service, and gladly bear testimony to their great accuracy. I have also availed myself of them in preparing my plan, and the Thessalon, Mississâga, Spanish and North Channel of French Rivers, as I have laid them down, are copies of those places.

The White Fish, Serpent, Sturgeon and other small rivers, as also the southerly and westerly coasts of Lake Nipissing, and the easterly channel of French river, are protracted from my own notes, the bearings having been taken by a box compass, and the distance measured by a log line, the rate of my canoe being marked by a watch.

The positions of the small inland lakes were determined by keeping the general course travelled from known points, and estimating the distance by the time travelled, allowance having been made for the nature of the country traversed, which although not critically correct, may serve to give you some idea of the general surface of the country.

It next becomes my duty, in compliance with your instructions, and in furtherance of the service with which I have been entrusted, to speak of the resources of the country, and while I approach the subject with diffidence, feeling my inability to do justice to it, I must say that after a further examination, and mature reflection, I see no reason to change the opinion I had formed when penning my report to you of 30th July last.

Viewed in three points; First, as an agricultural country; Secondly, as a mixed timber and mineral producing region; and Thirdly, as regard its fisheries, I feel warranted in saying that at no very remote period, this section will be a source of vast revenue to the Province.

As an agricultural country, although it is true that on the coast of the Lake and for some miles inland, the country is, in most places, rugged and barren, and equally true that further in the interior the valleys of good, arable land are crossed by rock hills, presenting the same sterile appearance, yet large and extensive tracts were found with a deep alluvial soil, furnishing material for the formation of, I con-

sider, at least sixty fine townships of thirty-six square miles area each, capable of producing to perfection, rye, oats, barley, maize, grass and all kinds of root crops.

That this is no theoretical view is substantiated from the fact, that in many places rude Indian clearings were met, where several of these crops were seen growing luxuriantly, and from this I think I may safely arrive at the conclusion that, were the country settled by a class of industrious agriculturists, that which is now produced under the rude husbandry of the half civilized savage, could be profitably grown by those accustomed to tilling the soil.

I have not mentioned wheat, autumn or spring, because from the length of the winter, and the great depth of the snow, I am of opinion the former cannot be cultivated to advantage, and that the latter would, in many instances, be a precarious crop; but in expressing this opinion, I will mention that from a person named "Walker," settled on "Campment D' Ours" near Port Lock Harbour, I learned that wheat had been successfully cultivated, three years in succession, on St Joseph's Island, which, as a crop, both in quality and quantity, proved remunerative to the grower.

As a timber region, many extensive tracts of pine, of a very fine quality were seen, both red and white, and this valuable timber is scattered to a greater or less extent throughout the whole country, and further the birch, tamarac, cedar and spruce, of which timber there is no lack, all serve to enhance its value as a lumber country.

Pine the most valuable of all is more frequently met with in the most broken and rugged sections of the country.

That I do not exaggerate the value of this country as a timber region, the following quotation from the "Democratic Press," an American newspaper, will shew.

"The lumber trade of Chicago is one of her most important and leading branches of business. Next to the grain trade, that in lumber, claims pre-eminence, and maintains a most powerful rivalry. During the year large additions have been made to its extent and value, and it may now be well questioned, whether there exists in the United States, a greater lumber market than Chicago. Her supplies are drawn from every direction, and from the most distant localities, from Pennsylvania and the valley of the Susquehanna, from Michigan and Wisconsin, from Canada and the St. Lawrence.

The demand from the whole growing region about her is immense and is yearly increasing. The receipts of lumber in 1847 were 32,000,000 feet, in 1855 they were 300,000,000.

To the market of Chicago this region has ready access during the summer months, as from its geographical position, lumber can be delivered there more readily, and at less cost, than from any other portion of Canada. The markets of Toronto and Oswego are equally accessible, and with an increased demand for lumber, extensive forests and water power unlimited, I cannot think this section of Canada will long remain in its present unimproved state.

Of the mineral resources of the country, as I am not a professional Geologist, it would be presumption in me to speak, particularly after the careful examination which has been made of it by gentlemen so eminently qualified for that service, but I may be permitted to say, that, in the most sterile sections, indications of mineral were constantly met which would lead me to hope that, at some future period, these portions will serve to increase the revenue of the country.

The Fisheries, though of minor import to the subjects above treated of, I feel it my duty to touch upon, as they at present furnish the principal staple production of the country, many hundred barrels of white fish and trout being yearly exported from the several Fishing stations on the Lake.

The principal parties employed in taking the fish are half-breeds, who resort to the same grounds year after year; and no reasonable doubt can be entertained but

that there are many other stations on the coast, now unfrequented, which, if worked, would considerably increase the take and export of this article of commerce.

The resources of the country may then be summed up in a few words.

The coast, rugged and rough as it is, affords employment to those who, unable or unwilling to follow any other line of business, devote their time to the taking and curing of fish for export.

The rivers with their magnificent water-power, and the more rugged and broken portions of the interior, hold out inducements to capitalists to employ their means in the manufacture of lumber, or to the developement of the mineral resources of the country; while to those who prefer agricultural pursuits, an ample field is offered for obtaining the means of subsistence for themselves, and of supplying the wants of those whose inclination leads them to embark in either of the other callings.

In offering a few suggestions respecting the developement of the resources of this country, I shall not, I trust, be exceeding my duty; and under this head I embrace the survey and settlement, should it be deemed advisable to subdivide it.

First, with regard to the method of survey, I would respectfully recommend the plan adopted in the United States.

The principal recommendation of this system is, I think, its simplicity, and to that portion of our country under consideration, I consider it peculiarly applicable.

In commencing the survey of a new tract of country, two principal lines are run from such points as may be deemed the most convenient, the one called "The Principal Meridian" is due North and South, and the other at right angles to it, or East and West, called "The Base Line."

Correction lines, parallel to the base, are run at the end of every ten townships, and form bases for all townships north of them. This is done to correct the error which would arise from the convergency of meridians. All these lines are run astronomically, and careful observations are taken at the end of every mile, or oftener if necessary, to detect or prevent error.

Upon the principal meridian, at the end of every mile section corners are established, and at every sixth mile a township corner. From these corners on the base line, range lines are run parallel to the principal meridian, on which section and quarter section corners are established, and at the end of the sixth mile a temporary post is set, but at the end of the sixth mile on the most Easterly range line of the tract to be surveyed, a township corner is established. From this corner a line is run due West to intersect the temporary posts set on the range lines previously run, and exactly at the intersection of the range lines, whether it be at the temporary posts or not, the corners of the several townships are established.

Each township is then divided into thirty-six sections, each containing six hundred and forty acres, which are again subdivided into quarter sections, or one hundred and sixty acres. Any further subdivision required, is made at the expense of the purchaser or proprietor.

No allowance is made for roads in the surveys, but they are established by Municipal law. Where practicable, the township and section lines are always taken for the public roads; and should there be natural obstructions which would render a divergence from these lines necessary, it is done by the Municipality. The proprietors of the property through which such road may be formed, other than the General Government, claiming damages from the Municipality, provided they can prove that the injury done to their property is greater than the benefit they derive from the construction of such road. For a further and more accurate elucidation of this system than I could give in a Report, I would respectfully refer you to the sketches and explanatory notes forwarded herewith, which were kindly furnished to me from the Surveyor General's Office of the State of Michigan.

I would further respectfully suggest that only such townships as are found to contain a large proportion of arable land should be subdivided, but that the outlines

of all should be run and the corners marked by cairns of stone, or other durable monument. My reason for this is, that many tracts of the country will be found valuable only for their timber or mineral productions, and although the benefit to be derived from them will not at present be commensurate with the cost of subdividing them into small sections, the outlines being marked and established, will enable parties the more readily to explore them, in order to develope their resources.

In order to facilitate the settlement of the cultivable portions of the country, I would respectfully recommend that the land should be offered to actual settlers at the lowest possible price; and that, as far as possible, speculation in them should be prevented.

A bar to the ready settlement of the country will, I fear, be found in the position of the Indian reserves, they being generally at the mouths of the rivers, and although the land in rear is much better in character, I apprehend it will be difficult to induce settlers to penetrate and open up the interior, while large tracts unimproved, or only very partially cultivated, lie between them and the front. I allude more particularly to the reserves at the Garden, Thessalon and Mississaga Rivers.

In conclusion, Sir, I would again respectfully refer to a subject mentioned in my report of 30th July, relative to the necessity that exists for the appointment of an officer and staff for the administration of Justice at the Sault Ste. Marie.

Although the inhabitants are generally peaceable and orderly, yet cases from time to time occur, which call for magisterial interference.

I have thus, Sir, endeavoured, as briefly as possible, to give you a faithful description of the country, its resources and its wants, as far as they were brought under my notice, and to perform to the best of my ability the responsible duty with which you were pleased to intrust me,

And have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed,) ALBERT PELLEW SALTER,

Provincial Surveyor.

Chatham, January 26th, 1856.



R E P O R T

Of Albert Pellevé Salter, Esquire, Provincial Land Surveyor, upon the County bordering upon the North Shore of Lake Huron.

(*Hon. Mr. Cartier.*)

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